

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00505 241036Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /098 W

-----241050Z 073421 /10

O R 240925Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4745

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

LOUQMTI/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 114

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJ: SIAD SPEAKS OUT ON DIPLOMATIC JOCKEYING: TWO

REF: MOGADISCIO 0504

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTENSE DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING BY SOVIETS AND MODERATE ARABS, PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE HAS PUT ALL CONTENDERS FOR LOYALTY OF GSDR ON NOTICE THAT GSDR WILL BE GUIDED IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY FIRST OF ALL BY NATIONAL INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO ETHIOPIAN "COLONIALISM", AND THAT IT WILL NOT BE ANYONE'S PAWN IN INTERNATIONAL POWER POLITICS.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00505 241036Z

2. HIS MARCH 21 STATEMENT TO SOMALI FESTAC TROUPE (REFTEL) SHOULD REMOVE ANY DOUBT THAT DIPLOMATID SITUATION HERE IS MORE FLUID THAN AT ANY TIME, PERHAPS, SINCE SIAD CAME TO POWER IN 1969. IT ALSO SHOWS, WE BELIEVE, THAT SIAD IS IN NO HURRY TO MAKE DECISIVE MOVE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. SOVIETS CAN TAKE COMFORT

FROM SIAD'S AFFIRMATION THAT SOVIETS ARE GSDR'S "TRUE FRIENDS". BUT HIS EMPHASIS ON ETHIOPIA'S CONTINUED OBSTRUCTION OF SOMALI TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS AND STATEMENT THAT GSDR DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN IDEOLOGY AND NATIONAL INTERESTS IN DETERMINING FOREIGN POLICY IS CLEAR WARNING TO SOVIETS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF GSDR INTERESTS AS THEY MOVE INTO ETHIOPIA. ARABS CAN TAKE COMFORT FROM SIAD'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF GSDR'S NON-ALIGNED AND ARAB VOCATION AND, EVEN MORE POINTEDLY, FROM HIS TRIP TO TAIZ TO ATTEND SUDANESE-ORGANIZED RED SEA SECURITY CONFERENCE. BUT THEY SHOULD KNOW ENOUGH OF SOMALI PRIDE TO RECOGNIZE DEPTH OF FEELING IN HIS STATEMENT THAT SOMALIS ARE NOT "BOOT-LICKERS" AND THAT, AS NATION, SOMALIS "PREFER HUNGER WITH HONOR TO PROSPERITY WITH SERVITUDE".

3. THERE IS MESSAGE HERE FOR USC, TOO. US EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE PERCEIVED AS USEFUL IN CURRENT SITUATION AND, THEREFORE, WELCOMED BY GSDR, SHOULD REMAIN VERY DISCREET. ANY OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT GSDR'S DILEMMA WILL BE BADLY RECEIVED AND COULD BOOMERANG AGAINST US.

JACOBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI00505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770101-0049
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770327/aaaaawuy.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOGADISCIO 504
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3010071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIAD SPEAKS OUT ON DIPLOMATIC JOCKEYING: TWO
TAGS: PFOR, SO, (SIAD BARRE, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/269cf0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009